candidates (all teachers) for a week during the Christmas holidays in 1938.

(*c*) Yes. Enquiry has been made.

(*d*) Some of them are now doing part-time work relating to rural reconstruction. Two of them are employed at the Rural Centre at Cherpu. One is doing honorary work in the Chalakkudi Depressed Class Colony. One is in charge of a rural centre at Pazhanji. Some of them are secretaries of rural reconstruction societies, Co-operative societies and other organisations.

(*e*) No special scheme has been prepared ; but students were given practical suggestions as to what they should do in their villages and Government have reports of good work being done by a number of them.

(*f*) Not necessary in the light of the answer to (*e*).

(*g*) No answer is necessary in view of the answers to (*e*) and (*f*).

COCOANUT PESTS —ERADICATION OF.

422. Mr. C. V. Iyyu. (*Kunnamkulam*) : Will the Government be pleased to inform whether the Government can place before the House:—

(*a*) a statement of different varieties of cocoanut pests in the State and a brief description of the nature of each variety of pests;

(*b*) the efforts the Government has hitherto undertaken to eradicate these pests ;

(*c*) whether they have arranged to have any researches made in this connection ;

(*d*) whether the Imperial Institute of Agricultural Research has been approached for this purpose ;

(*e*) if so, what work they have done in this connection ;

(*f*) the acreage these pests have affected the agriculture in each Taluk of the State ?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*) :

(*a*) Copies of Bulletin No. IV published in 1938, and Bulletin No. II published in 1111, of the Entomological series, relating to the different varieties of cocoanut pests are placed on the Council table. They will supply the information required.

(*b*) The information is contained in the Bulletins referred to.

(*c*) Researches on cocoanut pests are carried out by the Entomologist.

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(*d*) No; as regards Insect pests.

(*e*) Does not arise in view of answer to (*d*).

(*f*) Since insect outbreaks do not confine themselves to any one place at all times, it is not possible to work out the acreage.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government of Cochin is contributing anything to the Imperial Institute of Agricultural Research?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): Yes.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): Then why can't you utilise their services for the purpose of this investigation?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): I think there is a gentleman employed by the Government of India for the whole of Kerala who comes here occasionally and conducts investigations into the soil conditions and some such experiments.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): Does he look into this matter of eradication of pests?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): I will think over that aspect and see whether anything could be done.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): Cannot the Government ask the Imperial Institute of Agricultural Research to start a research institute here?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): They cannot do that. They are only an advising body. The Provincial Governments and the Indian States submit schemes for their advice and they give the best technical advice possible. That body is intended for the whole of India. In questions of All-India importance, I think they will even give grants.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): Can we not start a Cocoanut Research Institute in Vytilla for doing some research work there?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): What kind of research do you mean?

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): I mean an entomological research institute.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): We will have to spend a lot of money for that and the money to be spent will not be commensurate with the benefit that will be

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derived from such an institute. Anyway, I will think over the subject.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): What I want to bring to the notice of the Government by means of this question is this. Especially in the southern parts of this State, almost all the cocoanut trees are infected by these pests and practically all the agriculturists there are being ruined. It is in view of that that I say that either our Government or the Travancore Government should start a research institute for studying the disease and try to prevent it.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): There is an Officer for our State and Travancore to look into this matter. His head-quarters is, I think, in Quilon. He comes here and inspects and looks into these things. He is specially deputed by the Government of India for that kind of work. Our entomologist co-operates with him, and they are doing a lot of useful work.

PANCHAYATS—CIVIL POWERS—VESTING OF.

423. Mr. Puthur Achyuta Menon (*Kattur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) how many Panchayats there are which are not given civil powers;

(*b*) the names of those Panchayats;

(*c*) whether there was any correspondence regarding this from Porathassery Panchayat;

(*d*) will the Government be pleased to invest this power as early as possible to Porathassery Panchayat?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*):

(*a*) 21.

(*b*) A list is appended. (*Appendix I.*)

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Yes; according to the availability of funds.

Mr. Puthur Achyuta Menon (*Kattur*): Will the Hon'ble Minister be kind enough to inform the House which is the nearest Panchayat with civil powers to Porathassery?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): I can't give the information off-hand.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar (*Nellayi*): What will be the approximate additional expenditure if civil powers are given to a Panchayat?

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